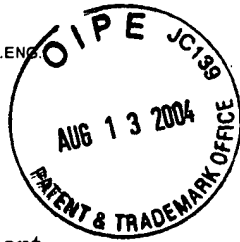


# RICHES, MCKENZIE & HERBERT LLP

IFW

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS  
PATENT & TRADE MARK AGENTS  
PAUL HERBERT, B.SC., PHM., LL.B.  
BRANT LATHAM, B.A. SC., (CHEM. ENG.), LL.B., P. ENG.  
DAN HITCHCOCK, B. ENG., LL.B., P. ENG.  
GARY M. TRAVIS, B. SC. (GEOL.), LL.B.  
JEFF PERVANAS, B.A. SC., (ENG. SCI.), LL.B.  
JASON LEUNG, B. SC. (GENETICS), LL.B.  
PATENT & TRADE MARK AGENT  
A. LEONARD GROVE



SUITE 1800  
2 BLOOR STREET EAST  
TORONTO, CANADA  
M4W 3J5

August 12, 2004

TELEPHONE (416) 961-5000  
FAX (416) 961-5081  
E-MAIL riches@patents-toronto.com

CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF  
GEORGE H. RICHES AND ASSOCIATES  
ESTABLISHED 1887

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
U.S.A.

Re: Owner: LANTEIGNE, Rene and WOOLFORD, Doug Victor  
Patent Application in U.S.A.  
Serial No. : 10/673586 Filing Date: September 30, 2003  
Title : Pipe Joining Assembly  
Our Case : P41403  
**DUE DATE : AUGUST 23, 2004**

---

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to the Office Action mailed on June 23, 2004.

All of claims 1 to 20 in this application are allowed.

Enclosed are 6 (six) revised drawing sheets containing Figures 1 to 6 which now include proper cross-hatching, as requested by the Examiner.

We look forward to receipt of the Notice of Allowance in due course.

Yours very truly,

**RICHES, MCKENZIE & HERBERT LLP**

Dan Hitchcock  
Reg. No. 32,109

DH/dmh  
Encls.  
Ret. Ack. Card  
Formal Figures 1 to 6